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31 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT: National Photographic Interpretation Center

1. While you may feel that you already have enough battles to fight without looking for additional areas of contention, I have been wondering recently whether you have ever given thought to the possibility of Indian wrestling Ray Cline for control of NPIC.

2. From where I sit there appears to be more than a casual case to be made for turning control of this highly technical business over to that Deputy Directorate in CIA whose prime responsibilities are concerned with Science and Technology.

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3. You may wonder why I am thinking about this at this time. The thought began about a week ago when [REDACTED] told me that he was alarmed about the current state of inactivity in NPIC in the field of equipment research and development. As you know, NPIC's budget for fiscal year 1964 in this area is somewhat in excess [REDACTED] 25X1A1a [REDACTED] as of 10 December only \$17,000 of this amount had been obligated. Ed feels that the decision making process in NPIC on matters of this sort is terribly bogged down. I do know that NPIC is looking for a strong, administratively oriented deputy [REDACTED] in whose hands lie the responsibility for progressing a program of exploitation equipment 25X1A9a development designed to keep NPIC up with or ahead of the state of the art. I have also heard privately that Art Lundahl is considering retirement, which may be another way of saying that he is considering accepting a high paying job in industry of the sort offered him several times a year in the past. As it has grown over the years from its rudimentary state in 1950-52, NPIC has become in some ways bureaucratized and unwieldy. There are some extremely competent people in NPIC and many, who I think, are there largely because of Lundahl. Certainly the Director is keen on NPIC and might well resist any attempt to subordinate them to S&T; I am sure that Ray Cline would automatically take a dim view of such a move. At least I thought I would surface it to see what your reaction would be.

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**EYES ONLY**

4. As an afterthought I should note that in the early days of the U-2 business when we were Art Lundahl's only customer, Dick Bissell on several occasions was urged to take NPIC under his wing so that there might be cohesion between the collection and exploitation ends of the business. For reasons that were largely associated, I believe, with his relationship [REDACTED] he never rose to the bait on the suggestion. At one point Lundahl and Camp both visited me separately to ask me to intercede with Bissell to see if he would not be willing to adopt NPIC and thus get them out of their own desperate financial problems under the sort of absentee leadership represented by the then DD/I. At a very minimum I think that NPIC desperately needs help in the R&D field. Perhaps this is the place to begin.

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[REDACTED]

Acting Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

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Distribution:

- #1 - DD/S&T
- #2 - AD/OSA
- #3 - C/PS/OSA
- #4 - RB/OSA (dummy)
- #5 - DAD/OSA
- #6 - DAD/OSA

DAD/OSA [REDACTED] /mcm

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**EYES ONLY**